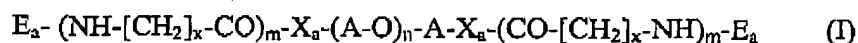


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sausage casing having a residual shrinkage in the range of from 5 to 20% at 80°C, wherein the shrinkage is measured before stuffing, in which the layer or, in the case of multiple-layer casings, at least one of the layers comprises a block copolymer containing "hard" aliphatic polyamide blocks having a glass-transition temperature of from 20 to 80°C and "soft" aliphatic polyether blocks having a glass-transition temperature of from -100 to -20°C, which block copolymer corresponds to one of the formulae I to III



where

A is an alkanediyl radical of the formula

-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (= ethane-1,2-diyl),

-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)- (= propane-1,2-diyl) or

-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>- (= butane-1,4-diyl),

X<sub>a</sub> is -O- or -NH-,

E<sub>a</sub> is H, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkanoyl, benzoyl or phenylacetyl,

CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl,

CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> or

CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>,

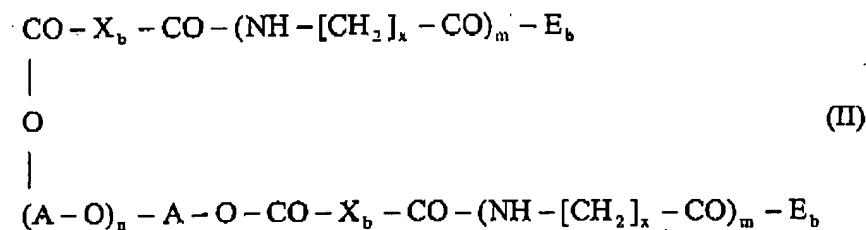
x is an integer from 5 to 11,

m is an integer from 30 to 200 and

n is an integer from 4 to 60;

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where

$X_b$  is an alkanediyl radical of the formula  $-[CH_2]_z-$ ,

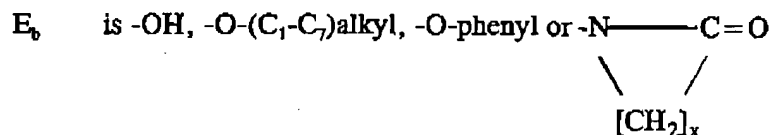
where  $z$  is an integer from 4 to 10,

*meta-* or *para*-phenylene,

-NH-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NH-,

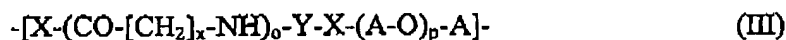
$$-\text{NH}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3-(\text{CH}_3)-\text{NH}-,$$
$$>N-[CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3, -[CH_2]_z-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)- \text{ or}$$
$$-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CO}-\text{N}([\text{CH}_2]_{x-1}-\text{CH}_3)-,$$

where  $C_6H_4$  is *meta*- or *para*-phenylene,



and

A, m and n have the meanings given above;



where

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Y is -CO-, -CO-[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>z</sub>-CO- or -CO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CO-,  
 where C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> is *meta*- or *para*-phenylene, or is  
 -CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-,  
 -CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>z</sub>-CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO- or  
 -CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-,  
 where C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> has the meanings specified,

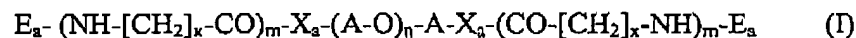
o is an integer from 10 to 150 and

p is an integer from 4 to 100 and

A, x and z have the meanings given above.

Please add the follow new claim:

15 (New). A biaxially stretched and thermoset, tubular, seamless, single-layer or a biaxially stretched and thermoset, tubular, seamless, multiple-layer sausage casing having a residual shrinkage in the range of from 5 to 20% at 80°C, wherein the shrinkage is measured before stuffing, in which the layer or, in the case of multiple-layer casings, at least one of the layers comprises a block copolymer containing "hard" aliphatic polyamide blocks having a glass-transition temperature of from 20 to 80°C and "soft" aliphatic polyether blocks having a glass-transition temperature of from -100 to -20°C, which block copolymer corresponds to one of the formulae I to III



where

A is an alkanediyl radical of the formula

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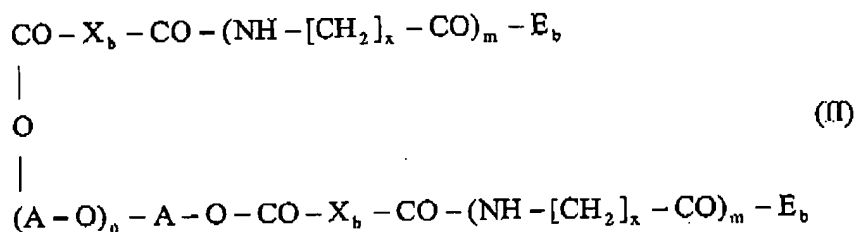
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-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (= ethane-1,2-diyl),-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)- (= propane-1,2-diyl) or-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>- (= butane-1,4-diyl),X<sub>a</sub> is -O- or -NH-,E<sub>a</sub> is H, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkanoyl, benzoyl or phenylacetyl,CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl,CO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> orCO-N([CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>x-1</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)-CO-CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>,

x is an integer from 5 to 11,

m is an integer from 30 to 200 and

n is an integer from 4 to 60;



where

X<sub>b</sub> is an alkanediyl radical of the formula -[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>z</sub>-,

where z is an integer from 4 to 10,

*meta*- or *para*-phenylene,-NH-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl-NH-,-NH-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>-(CH<sub>3</sub>)-NH-,

D2 cont'd

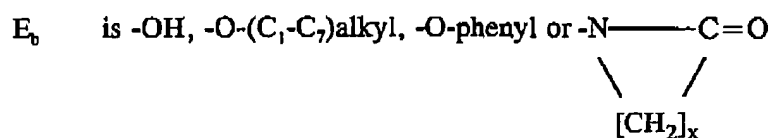
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$$>N-[CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3, -[CH_2]_2-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-$$
 or

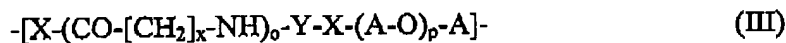
$$-C_6H_4-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-,$$

where  $C_6H_4$  is *meta*- or *para*-phenylene,



and

A, m and n have the meanings given above;



where

Y is  $-CO-$ ,  $-CO-[CH_2]_z-CO-$  or  $-CO-C_6H_4-CO-$ ,

where  $C_6H_4$  is *meta*- or *para*-phenylene, or is

$$-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-CO-$$

$$-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-CO-[CH_2]_z-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-CO-$$
 or

$$-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-CO-C_6H_4-CO-N([CH_2]_{x-1}-CH_3)-CO-$$

where  $C_6H_4$  has the meanings specified,

o is an integer from 10 to 150 and

p is an integer from 4 to 100 and

A, x and z have the meanings given above, wherein the product is produced by a

process comprising:

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D 2 cont'd

preparing a homogeneous melt of a polymer blend containing the block copolymer;

extruding the melt through a heated ring die to form a seamless tube;

rapidly cooling the seamless tube after extrusion to obtain the polymers in an amorphous state, and heating the cooled tube to a blow molding temperature;

stretching the extruded casing by blow molding to form a stretched tube;

partially thermosetting the stretched tube to form the single or multilayer food casing.

16. (New) A casing according to claim 15, wherein the step of extruding the melt through a heated ring die to obtain a seamless tube, further comprises coextruding the polymer blend and another polymer blend through a coextrusion die to obtain a multilayer seamless tube.

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